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THE STRANGE RIDER

Photoplay in 5 reels

Directed by Ward Hayes

**Author of the photoplay (under section 62)
Arrow Pictures Corporation of U.S.**

By Perry N. Vekroff

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SYNOPSIS

"THE STRANGE RIDER" *M. W. 24*

Driven off, gets his lasso ready and catches the runaway horse and hurries after his assistant. He finds nothing incriminating until he spies a team of horses running then all together, hurries on to Slavin's shack. He enters. He finds nothing incriminating until he spies a team of horses. Driving along a lonely Western road, Jim Weston in his "flivver" sees a man beating a horse that he once owned. He tells the man that the horse named the "Killer" is too good to beat. Finally he trades his Ford for the horse. Jim starting on his way sees a team running away with a frightened girl in the wagon.

He gets ahead of the wagon, catches the limb of a tree and pulls himself up. As the wagon passes beneath him, he drops to the horse's back and draws up hard, just at the edge of a cliff. The girl in the wagon has fainted and he lifts her out, as Hank Bennett, foreman of the L. I. Ranch, rides up and thanks Jim for his help, thus curtly dismissing him. Seeing him unarmed, he has not properly dressed his guns so as not to arouse suspicion. Slavin, looking for a horse, while the man from whom he bought the horse sees the rescue and comments upon Jim's splendid riding, then tells him that the girl is Mary Drake, daughter of the owner of the L. I. Ranch. As Mary comes to, she thanks Hank for saving her life and he tells her of his love. She answers that if he insists upon telling her, he will take all the thrill out of the adventure and he allows her to think he was the hero.

They start for the ranch when Hank meets Slim, a member of Slavin's gang, who hands Hank a roll of bills for his share of the last lot of cattle and from all the booze sold so far. Then Hank rejoins Mary and they continue on their way.

Mary tells her father how Hank saved her life and he accepts Mr. Drake's thanks. They all walk into the kitchen - the cook turns his head - it is Jim! Hank strokes his chin in wonderment, then asks Jim not to tell Mary it was he who saved her. Jim agrees.

Perplexed, Jim opens his note book and reads the description of two men, one tall, weighing about 190 pounds, and the other short, with the habit of stroking his chin; both wanted by the law for cattle rustling. He enters the cabin and finds Mary in bed.

At the end of the first month on the L. I. Ranch, Jim is well entrenched in the good graces of his comrades. His stunt riding and ability to use the lasso, affords entertainment to the cowboys.

Mary asks him to do these stunts for her, and going to his horse, gets his rope to start, when turning he sees her in interested conversation with Hank, having apparently forgotten all about him. Jim thinks Mary is a coquette and is sorely disappointed.

Mr. Drake comes up with the announcement that more cattle are missing and Hank insinuates that no one knows where Jim came from or what his business is. Mary hears this and suggests to Jim that he go after the cattle and disprove Hank's accusation. Jim refuses, but when Mary asks if he is afraid, he swiftly mounts "Killer" and hurries off.

One of the cowboys runs up with the news that he cannot locate the cattle - that they must have crossed the Kittridge Gap. Also that he saw Jim cross the gap followed by Mary Drake. This infuriates Mr. Drake who swears to kill Jim if he and Mary are found together.

Jim, having followed the trail to the gap, sees the cattle being

driven off, gets his lasso ready and catches the thief, hog-ties him and hurries after his assistants. Two of these men he also catches and tying them all together, hurries on to Slavin's shack. It is empty when he enters. He finds nothing incriminating until he spies a trap door which he opens and finds a cellar full of booze, evidently the source from which the cowboys have been getting their supplies.

The door opens and Mary enters. She tells him she is sorry she sent him on this chase thereby endangering his life, and is also grateful to him for saving her the day of the runaway, information which she has just gathered from the man who witnessed the rescue.

Having Slavin and two of his henchmen approaching, Mary hides behind some barrels and Jim greets the comers with the information that he was sent from the L. I. Ranch to look for cattle and having lost his kit is looking for food. Seeing him unarmed, he having purposely dropped his guns so as not to arouse suspicion, Slavin invites him to share their grab. While eating, Slavin sees a foot project from among the barrels; Mary, becoming cramped, had stretched out her foot. Saying nothing, but writing a note to his men to go on the trail and look out for Drake, Slavin passes it along the table and both men leave. Then Slavin, big, husky brute, upsets the table and springs at Jim.

Jim, always ready and in fine condition, is an equal match for the heavier man, and soon they are battling for their lives. After much difficulty, Jim gets an opportunity to reach for his gun and is holding Slavin up, when the door softly opens and one of the gang enters with gun raised. Seeing the reflection in a dishpan on the wall, it takes Jim just a second to shoot over his shoulder and wound his man in the arm, quickly turn back on Slavin who has made an attempt to break away, and shoot him in the wrist. Thus disabled, Slavin meekly allows Jim to handcuff him and lock him in a closet.

Drake enters the cabin and finds Mary in Jim's arms. He advances threateningly and Hank is equally furious. Mary tells her father that Jim did not bring her to the cabin as he thinks, but that she followed him to warn him of the danger into which she sent him, and Hank she calls a "four flusher" for allowing her to think he had saved her life.

Jim turns Slavin over to the sheriff, but as he passes Hank he calls him a "double crossin" skunk."

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Drake then tells Hank to leave and that he will get a new foreman, but Jim announces the fact that he has come all the way from Dallas to get his man, and flashes his badge.

Mary, snuggling up to Jim, is the fade of the picture.

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